

★ news release

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DEVELOPMENT OF NATION'S UNDERUTILIZED FISHERIES RESOURCES RECOMMENDED

The Committee, established in 1955 to advise the Secretary of the Interior on fisheries matters, concluded that a larger domestic fish catch and a subsequent improvement of the American fishing industry would result in stronger competition with rising imports of fishery products.

1. Federal construction of one or more vessels of a proven type for use by the industry in demonstrating new methods of profitably harvesting under-utilized fishery resources;
2. Automation of harvesting and processing techniques to reduce increasing labor costs;
3. Development of new and high-quality products with built-in marketing services designed to attract consumers;
4. Studies leading to establishment of uniform State commercial fishing regulations, and removal of those which unnecessarily inhibit development of fishery resources; and
5. Continuation of intensive efforts to develop an acceptable fish protein concentrate.

Other recommendations by the Committee included enactment of legislation to extend the Fishery Loan Program, scheduled for termination on June 30, 1965, and the continuation of research on the effects that pesticides, pollution, and the destruction of fish spawning and nursery areas have on fishery resources.

The Committee was welcomed at its opening session by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. He emphasized that fisheries problems are complex and varied and that solutions require effective cooperation between the fishing industry and Government.

Staff members of the Fish and Wildlife Service briefed the Committee on domestic and international problems affecting the U. S. fishing industry; fisheries legislation; oceanography; quality improvement in fishery products; special programs involving the International Biological Program, International Cooperation Year, the Potomac River Project, and the program of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries during fiscal year 1966.

Development of an acceptable fish protein concentrate would provide the domestic fishing industry with a market for underdeveloped fisheries resources readily available in coastal waters. One of the highlights of the meeting was a trip to Beltsville, Md., to inspect scale models of fish protein concentrate processing units developed by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

The Committee also viewed the operation of a newly developed blue crab debacking machine, the first in a family of four machines which work together to process blue crabs completely. The machines will mechanize an industry which is faced with increasing cost of hand labor.

Members of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee are H. Heber Bell, St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.; George J. Davidson, Boston, Mass.; Clifton D. Day, San Francisco, Calif.; J. Roy Duggan, Brunswick, Ga.; Ammon G. Dunton, White Stone, Va.; Louis Fischer, Cocoa, Fla.; Arthur H. Frohman, Chicago, Ill.; Ray H. Full, Vermilion, Ohio; H. R. Humphreys, Jr., Kilmarnock, Va.; E. Robert Kinney, Gloucester, Mass.; Thomas D. McGinnis, Irvington, Va.; John S. McGowan, Astoria, Ore.; John Mehos, Galveston, Tex.; Anthony Nizetich, Terminal Island, Calif.; Einar Pedersen, Seattle, Wash.; Roy Prewitt, Lonoke, Ark.; Theodore H. Shepard, Jr., New Orleans, La.; Daniel H. Smith, Port Washington, Wis.; and W. O. Smith, Ketchikan, Alaska.

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